Villar, allies no-show for Senate vote

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

AS ONE MAJORITY BLOC SENATOR pointed out, "they chickened out," referring to the boycott by allies of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. on the last day of session in Congress.

The boycott yesterday prevented the Senate from voting on the recommendations of the committee of the whole to censure Villar for alleged misconduct in

VILLAR A4

ACROSS / A9
GMA asked to stop sugar importation

WORLD / A22
Anwar pleads not guilty to sodomy



SPORTS / A16
Rain or Shine stalls Purefoods

METRO / A19
Arraignment of Ivler set for Feb. 16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, February 4, 2010 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 58 P18

'Go ask GMA, she knows SCTEx lobbyist'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DID FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON Aquino personally lobby to build the Tarlac exit of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) across her family's sprawling Hacienda Luisita just before the 2004 elections?

CORY A6

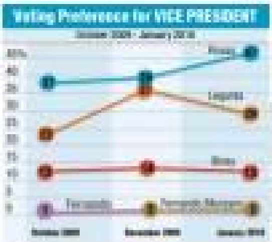


AND THEN THERE ARE 11 The majority members of the Senate find themselves in the minority as they are unable to vote on the report of the Senate committee of the whole to censure Sen. Manuel Villar, who with other members of the minority bloc are no show at the last session. They adjourn early due to a lack of quorum. From left are Senators Gregorio Honasan, Richard Gordon, Mar Roxas, Juan Ponce Enrile, Noynoy Aquino, Jamby Madrigal, Francis Pangilinan, Jinggoy Estrada and Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Neck-and-neck race on

Villar in statistical tie with Aquino, says Pulse Asia





SEN. MANUEL VILLAR OR HIS CLOSEST RIVAL, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, would win the presidency if the elections were held last month, results of a survey conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. show.

Although finding himself in the midst of a political storm over the C-5 controversy, Villar, the standard-bearer of the Nacionalista Party (NP), managed to continue his surge in the ratings game.

In contrast, Aquino's ratings continued to go down in the Jan. 22-26 Pulse Asia survey on voter preferences for national positions.

With a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points, Aquino and Villar were statistically tied about four months before the May 10 elections.

This was the first time since Aquino declared his presidential bid in September last year that Villar outmaneuvered the former's commanding lead.

Compared with the December 2009 survey, support for Villar improved by 12 percentage points (from 23 percent to 35 percent), while support for Aquino declined by 8 percentage points (from 45 percent to 37 percent).

Asked about the decline in Aquino's numbers, Pulse Asia president Ronald D. Holmes said, "Perhaps there were certain things that were not done, certain steps that were not taken which contributed to the erosion of support for Noynoy."

The survey was not commissioned by an outside entity. Pulse Asia conducted it on its own.

Pulse Asia asked 1,800 representative adults the question: "If the coming 2010 elections

NECK-AND-NECK A13

New US envoy calls for clean RP polls

WASHINGTON—THE NOMINEE to be the US ambassador to the Philippines seems to have done his homework. Harry Thomas called on Tuesday for free and peaceful elections and hoped for progress on corruption and human rights concerns.

Thomas impressed his Senate confirmation hearing by speaking briefly in the Filipino tongue and pledged to nurture the "long-standing friendship" between the United States and the Philippines.

Thomas, a career foreign service officer, said that while the United States respected its former colony's right to choose its own leaders, it also wanted to encourage a fair process.

"If confirmed, I will work to press the Philippines to ensure that we have free and fair elec-

NEW US ENVOY A6

RP may use extradition treaty to get Lacson

By Jerome Aning and TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT may use "extraordinary measures" to have Sen. Panfilo Lacson brought back to the country should he refuse to face charges for the November 2000 Dacer-Corbito murders.

Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera yesterday cited these measures in the course of commenting on Lacson's statement on Tuesday that he left the country because his indictment for the murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito was part of an "evil conspiracy" between Malacañang and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

As well, she said, the Philippine government could cancel Lacson's passport so that he would be deported as an undocumented alien.

The opposition senator flew to Hong Kong on Jan. 5 and is purportedly now in Australia.

"He should come home" because "he has a level playing field in the court," Devanadera

RP MAY USE A4

Unfazed by raps, Bolante running for Capiz gov

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—JOCELYN "JOC-JOC" Bolante, the purported architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam for whom the Senate blue ribbon committee has recommended plunder charges, is making the rounds of Capiz to drum up support for his candidacy for governor.

That's according to his trusted lawyer-friend Henry Reyes, who, belying rumors that Bolante was seldom seen in Capiz, said the latter had been busy touching base with residents of his home province and attending fiestas and other special occasions.

Bolante is running under Ugyon Kita Capiz (UKC), the party he organized and of which he is vice chair, and which counts 12 of the 16 mayors in the province among its members.

The 12 mayors backing Bolante belong to various national parties; the other four mayors are members of the Liberal Party (LP).

Reyes said Bolante was unfazed by the report of the Senate blue ribbon committee recommending the filing of plunder and other charges against him and nine others who par-

UNFAZED A8



AFP 'lowers' standards for recruits

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MILITARY WOULD RATHER have more brains than brawn, never mind if they come in smaller packages.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has slashed its minimum height requirement for both male and female recruits to 5 feet

AFP LOWERS A11

Filipinos to bid in $15-B Guam US naval project

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—FILIPINO CONTRACTORS will vie for lucrative contracts in a $15-billion US military expansion program in Guam that, this city's mayor said, brought back memories of American military presence here.

Organizers said Filipino manpower and product suppliers had lined up to submit bids for contracts in Guam at the Annual Pacific Island Local Government (APILG) conference that this city would host on Feb. 19-21.

Mayor James Gordon Jr. said Filipino contractors would get to know the process

FILIPINOS A6



NOTHING HEAVY President Arroyo plays the Inquirer's gracious dinner host—with nothing heavy or political on the menu—on Tuesday at the paper's office in Makati. She's met by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Inquirer CEO/president (foreground), and chair Marixi R. Prieto (left). It's not clear why Ms Arroyo has been doing the rounds of newspapers. But as the Palace puts it, it's for the media to understand and appreciate her better. (See story on Page A2.)

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Bet's wife died a 'cruel death'

By Marlon Ramos and Cathy Cañares-Yamsuan

GENALIN MANGUDADATU SUFFERED A "CRUEL, brutal and treacherous" death, according to the report of the medico-legal officer of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

[illegible]

GMA visits Inquirer in media charm drive

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo [illegible]

Polls could cost P3B more—Lozada

By DJ Yap

WHISTLE-BLOWER RODOLFO "Jun" Lozada, an engineer and information technology expert, [illegible]



GMA set to OK new seniors' discount

By Nikko Dizon

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo [illegible]

OFWs hail Pag-Ibig coverage

FILIPINO WORKERS IN HONG Kong have welcomed their mandatory coverage of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) starting last month as provided for by the new HDMF Law of 2009 that was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo in July last year, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro said the positive response of OFW leaders to the expanded coverage was overwhelming. –Cynthia D. Balana

DOCTOR, NOT A LAWYER, HEADS CSC

Duque breezes through confirmation

Corona seeking to be chief justice

Why not write about Gibo, too?

By TJ Burgonio

No accreditation for Namfrel



S & P bullish on economy

By Michelle V. Remo



Pinay falsely deported by fake US marshal

HEMET, CALIFORNIA—A Southern California man posed as a US marshal to kidnap a distant cousin's wife and falsely deport her to the Philippines, police said Tuesday.

Police arrested Greg Raymond Denny Jr. of Riverside County last month on suspicion of impersonating an officer and kidnapping Cherishelle Hibbard.

Fake badge

Police said Denny, 37, barged into Hibbard's Hemet home on Jan. 22 wearing a fake badge and a gun that said "US Marshal." Denny handcuffed the woman at gunpoint and forced her husband to buy her a plane ticket. He then used a fake badge to get through San Diego airport security and put her on a plane to her home country, according to a police report.

Craig Hibbard said he called the US Marshals Service three days later and officials there told him Denny wasn't an agent.

Police said they arrested Denny after he came to the station for questioning wearing a fake badge and a replica pistol. Denny claimed he was a federal marshal but later admitted he impersonated a marshal and confirmed the family's account, Lt. Mark Richards said. No motive was released.

Denny told The Press-Enterprise newspaper Monday that the kidnapping claims were false, but he provided no further details.

Cherishelle, who is five months pregnant, wed Craig Hibbard three years ago. She canceled her immigration documents and said she wanted to go home after she and Craig fought last year, Craig Hibbard said.

She later secured her green card pending permanent residency status and was waiting for it to be processed when Denny abducted her, Craig Hibbard said. Immigration officials in San Bernardino told him she was allowed to stay in the United States in the meantime, he said.

Denny said Craig Hibbard's father told him Cherishelle was in the country illegally and the couple was having problems at home, The Press-Enterprise reported. Denny and Craig Hibbard are distant cousins, but Hibbard said they met only twice before.

Hemet police said they forwarded the case to the San Diego FBI.

In a phone interview from Manila, Cherishelle Hibbard told the newspaper she had never met Denny and didn't realize he was related to her husband. She said she was afraid of going to jail when he pounded on the door.

"I'm pregnant and don't want to take the kids away from my husband," she said. Denny is free on $50,000 bond. *AP*

Villar, allies no-show for Senate vote on censure

RP may use extradition treaty, cancel Ping's passport to get him

Rosebud: Shame on you

Filipinos to bid in $15-B US naval expansion projects in Guam

Temperatures rise as El Niño starts setting in

TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN RISING around the country as the El Niño phenomenon nears its peak, according to the weather bureau.

Meteorologists at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said they noticed a rise of between .05 to 1 degrees Celsius in temperatures in various parts of the country.

For example, in Metro Manila, the average maximum temperature for January was at 31.2 degrees Celsius. Normally, the metropolis sees maximum temperatures at 30.4 degrees Celsius for the same period.

In Baguio City, the average maximum temperature for January was at 13.9 degrees Celsius, higher than the average 12.9 degrees Celsius in the city.

"Even nighttime temperatures are slightly warmer compared to the averages," said Rusy Abastillas of the Pagasa's climatological and agro-meteorological division.

El Niño refers to the unusual warming of surface waters in the Pacific, causing unusual global weather patterns, mainly higher temperatures and drought conditions in places like the Philippines.

Abastillas said El Niño, which is nearing or is at its peak, is currently at "moderate strength."

According to Abastillas, El Niño could last until May or June. She said there has been a slight drop in sea surface temperatures in recent weeks, from 1.8 degrees Celsius in January to 1.4 degrees this month.

She said Luzon is bound to still experience the effects of El Niño with below to way below normal rainfall in the Cordillera Autonomous Region and the Ilocos, northern Luzon, central Luzon and Calabarzon regions. *Alcuin Papa*

Nothing for Palace to explain, says Ermita

'Not binding'

Private citizen

Unfazed by raps, Bolante runs for Capiz gov

Telltale tarpaulin



TAKING A SECOND LOOK

Different strokes

Libel suit

IN THE KNOW

Who is Joc-joc?

'Go ask GMA, she knows SCTEx lobbyist for Hacienda Luisita'

Dead men tell no tales

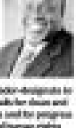
Estate value went up

Unfulfilled promises

Little Palestine

New US envoy calls for clean polls

Eliminate private armies



SHARED HOPES

Praise RP's Asean role



WHY WAIT

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

GMA asked to stop sugar importation

By Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A NEGROS SUGAR FARMERS' group on Tuesday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to hold off the importation of 150,000 metric tons of sugar until the end of milling season so it could be determined if it was necessary.

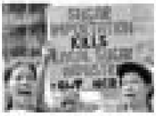
[illegible]

Remove VAT instead

[illegible]

6 million workers

[illegible]



ACTIVISTS rally at the Department of Trade and Industry offices in Makati to demand a stop in plans to import sugar.

[illegible]

Subsidies

[illegible]

Public warned vs so-called Imelda group offering cash

By Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

[illegible]



PEACEFUL RIDE

Children paddle their boat in Isabela, Basilan, a province wracked by violence, terror attacks and kidnappings.

Gunmen burn school in Cotabato mine site

[illegible]

Senator Ocampo wish of Satur's 99-year-old mom

[illegible]



[illegible]

NEWSBRIEFS

■ LAGUNA

Biñan now city

[illegible]

5 kids electrocuted

[illegible]

■ NUEVA ECIJA

Sex case in CLSU

[illegible]

■ SOUTHERN LEYTE

Pests attack farms

[illegible]

Ilocos' warm welcome shows Solid North for Gibo–Keon

LAOAG CITY—HE MAY STILL BE A FAR fourth in the survey but administration presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro Jr. was a hit among the Ilocano youth whom he addressed in a forum here on Tuesday.

The reception that Teodoro received in the province, according to Gov. Michael Marcos Keon, shows he was popular among Ilocanos and has bagged the so-called Solid North vote.

In a press statement, Keon said if surveys were held in the province, Teodoro was sure to emerge a big winner.

The governor said 17 of the province's 23 local executives vowed to deliver at least 200,000 votes to the Lakas-Kampi-CMD standard bearer.

"Just look at how our people, especially our youth, warmed up to him during his forum here," said Keon.

Teodoro, who traces his roots to Ilocos, wowed college students from three private schools when he spoke in Pinoy Ilocano.

Students raised concerns ranging from the expanded senior citizens act, agriculture, education, employment, extrajudicial killings and the Mindanao conflict.

Teodoro is banking on the support of Keon and town mayors allied with Lakas-Kampi-CMD to gather the Ilocano votes for him.

Teodoro asked students here to judge presidential candidates objectively. "The greatest political power is with you because of your sheer number," he said.

Keon said political leaders in the province also promised Teodoro to keep the elections violence-free.

At the 192nd founding anniversary of Ilocos Norte on Tuesday, Teodoro vowed to transform the province into a tourism center if elected president.

He told students at the AMA University in this city that Ilocos Norte already has the ingredients needed to become a tourism center.

"Ilocos Norte has more than sufficient capital and resources to be the country's next premier destination," he said.

"We have lovelier beaches and other scenic spots than Malaysia, Indonesia or even Thailand combined. But we are losing badly to them because we don't advertise or market our potentials," he said. *Cristian Arcaina, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



REBEL LAND
A Moro guerrilla patrols a camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mamasapano, Maguindanao. The MILF and government are working on a peace agreement that could lead to expanded Muslim autonomy in Mindanao.

Sign peace covenant, Army asks candidates

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao—The military asked candidates in the province to sign a peace covenant to prevent bloodshed during the elections.

Col. Herbert Yambing, deputy commander of the military-led Joint Security and Coordination Center (JSCC), said the peace covenant was being pushed at the behest of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Maguindanao's worst election-related violence took place on Nov. 23 when armed men allegedly led by Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. slaughtered 57 people, at least 30 of them journalists.

Yambing said local politicians were receptive to the idea of signing a covenant when they attended a meeting held at the provincial capitol here on Tuesday.

He said during the meeting, the candidates and their representatives were told the document would be ready anytime this week or next week.

Yambing said the signing ceremony would include candidates in the provincial and municipal levels. It could also help secure voters, election inspectors and election machines, he said.

He said Norman Sinsuat, acting Maguindanao governor, and Estelita Dalsam, provincial election supervisor, had told the candidates that signing the covenant would attest they are for the peaceful conduct of the elections.

"The candidates must affix their signatures as a show of their commitment to help keep peace," Yambing said, adding that the gesture would "manifest their sincerity and integrity to comply with the agreement."

Lt. Gen. Anthony Alcantara, who heads the Cotabato City-based JSCC, said a similar covenant will follow for candidates running in the Cotabato City elections.

He said while the military was asking politicians not to use violence to boost their candidacy, soldiers are also doing their jobs—providing back-up to police in the implementation of the gun ban.

In Cotabato City alone, the police reported that at least 70 firearms had already been confiscated since the implementation of the gun ban started. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*



MAJ. GEN. Ben Dolorfino, chief of the AFP Western Mindanao Command, jumps off a Navy boat after a visit to Basilan, one of several election hotspots in Mindanao that includes Maguindanao.

$2B in new trade seen in Subic

OFFICIALS RUNNING THE SUBIC BAY Freeport are expecting at least $2 billion in new investments to come in this year from local and foreign sources.

In a press release, SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said aside from the additional investments, he expects more tourists to come in.

Arreza said the increase in investment commitments this year is due to the expansion of the economic zone to include areas outside the freeport and the incentives offered to these projects.

Executive Order No. 675 expanded the area qualified for tax incentives to areas near the Subic freeport, like Olongapo City and nearby areas in Subic, Zambales.

Arreza said a draft of the implementing rules of EO 675 has been submitted to the President for approval and includes provisions for a lower five-percent gross income tax now which is being enjoyed by locators in Subic.

"The global economic crisis also hit our shores, but the Subic Freeport maintained focus," the release quoted Arreza as saying.

Tourist arrivals in Subic reached a total of 5.66 million from January to November 2009. At least 5.51 million of these are local tourists.

Local investments in 2009 reached P96.22 million, or more than half of the total P198 million in investments in Subic in 2009. This made up for a decline in foreign direct investments.

Among projects lined up this year in Subic are the $2.75-million leisure facility in Subic's Camayan area to be built by Subic Neocrest Corp.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

E-jeeps draw Legazpi curiosity





INQUIRER

OPINION

Ping Lacson, tourist

EDITORIAL



Lethal cocktail

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Root of all evil

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A dead heat

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



My parents' trophy

YOUNG BLOOD

Raymond Campo

Senior citizens ask for so little

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



The battle for the Arroyo babies

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



Utopia

Frances Jabelyn G. Abad

JBC's role crucial to prevent crisis

LETTERS

London NGO says CPP-NPA among NSAGs violating human rights

Biased interpretation

Senate hearing on C-5 politically-motivated

Roxas enjoys 'sizeable' lead over Legarda

Tied in Mindanao

Better prepared

Another female leader

Table 2: Vice Presidential Preference

Neck-and-neck race on between Villar and Aquino

Table 1: Presidential Preference

Estrada, others

Waning Cory fever

Premature campaign

Message not getting across

Bulldozing LP with ads

Poor showing

AFP 'lowers' standards for recruits

Old yardstick

Wider selection

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Ginebra lives another day

Rain or Shine stalls P'foods

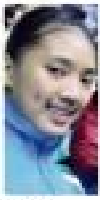
By Musong R. Castillo



GABE Norwood of Rain or Shine tries to block a shot against Purefoods forward Marc Pingris.

SBP wants Asian test for Smart Gilas five

By Jaso Navarro

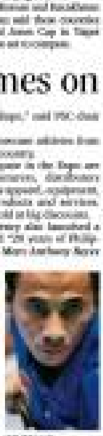


ALCALA

Young badminton ace gets PSC support

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Sports expo, nat'l games on



ORCOLLO

Orcollo lifts Team RP

Ateneo's volleybelles shine

By Cedelf P. Tupas

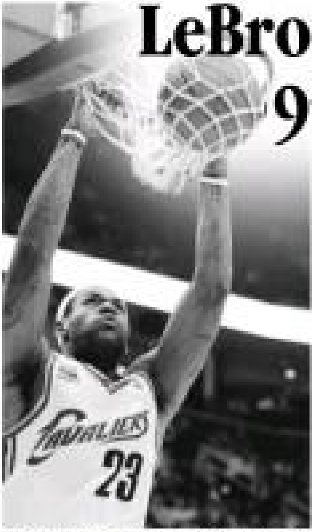
Labrador sinks Mango Tee ace



Southern Ladies golf under way

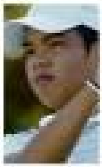
By Musong R. Castillo

LeBron sets up Cavs' 9th straight win



LEBRON James scores off a breakaway jam. The Cleveland superstar also focused a lot of his effort on setting up teammates.

Tabuena tops ICTSI Jungolf opener by 3



TABUENA

Whatever happened to Harry Tañamor?

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

SPORTSWATCH

Jahns, De Guzman rule JAV

PWBL: FEU, Lyceum still unbeaten



FRIENDSHIP RIDE



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MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Aplus **METRO**

Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

[illegible]

Ivler's arraignment set on Feb. 16

Cagayan vice mayor charged in QC court

By Nancy C. Carvajal

[illegible]

Road rage suspect 'recovering well'–doctor

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A QUEZON CITY JUDGE has ordered the arraignment of road rage suspect Jason Ivler on a murder charge on Feb. 16.

[illegible]

Makati to host mass wedding for live-in couples

Ping Lacson's flight from justice

On Target
Ramon Tulfo



Cagayan ...

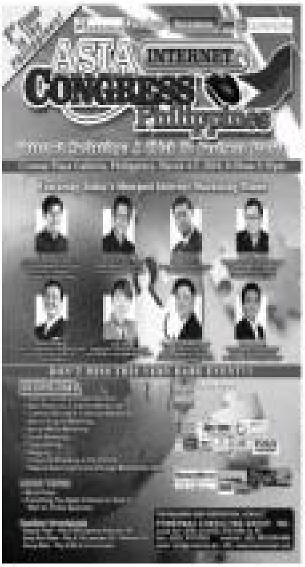
Witness

MetroBriefs

Cop nabbed for theft

Inmate charged anew

Fire destroys 4 houses





Dalai Lama visit strains further US-China relations



Frustration growing at Haiti aid bottlenecks

Frustration growing at Haiti aid bottlenecks

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI—

AP

Friend charged with hiding lotto winner's death



MOORE: Murder accessory

TAMPA, FLORIDA—

AP

WorldBriefs

Blast kills 20 in Iraq's holy city

BAGHDAD— AP

Iran launches new research rocket

TEHRAN— AP

Activists nominated for Nobel Prize

OSLO— AP

Court wants genocide raps reconsidered

THE HAGUE— AP

3 US soldiers killed in Pakistan bombing

AP

N. Zealand virgin auctions herself to pay tuition

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—

Prostitution legal

Fit and healthy

AP

The WORLD



ANWAR: Frivolous charge

Anwar pleads not guilty to sodomy

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIAN OPPOSITION leader Anwar Ibrahim pleaded not guilty at the start of his sodomy trial on Wednesday, saying the "malicious" charges were a conspiracy to end his political career.

[illegible]

AFP

BUSINESS

NFA gets go-ahead to import sugar

Tax-free purchases to stabilize supply, prices

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR private firms to import tax-free sugar to stabilize the price of the commodity in the local market.

INQUIRER MONITOR



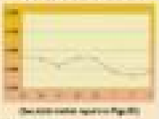
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks end 3-day slide



Congress passes bill on bankruptcy framework

Bangko Sentral considers further rediscount rate hike

BIR, Customs exceed targets

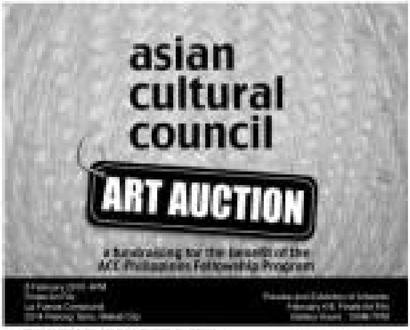


SM Prime plans $300-M REIT shares offering

SBC posts 20.9% return on equity

Congress passes . . .

Banko . . .



Petron sets aside P5B for power project

P3.9 billion for short-term debt payment

Trans-Asia seen investing $300M in 10 wind power projects

NFA . . .

EASTWESTBANK

SMALL BIZ BITES



BUSINESS

Land tighter

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

WHAT IS THIS WE HEAR THAT THE GSIS is about to lose some P1 billion because of a transaction executed about 60 years ago?

No kidding, here, the transaction dates back to the 1950s, before most of us were even born.

Last month, however, or only 60 years later, the Supreme Court made a surprise ruling, in effect telling GSIS to cough up P1 billion.

Wait a minute! We are talking here about the money of more than a million government employees. When these guys retire, that P1 billion means food on the table.

* * *

In the 1950s, the GSIS lent money to the Zulueta family for a subdivision project in Pasig, known as Antonio Village.

The loan amounted to some P5 million, secured by some of the family's property, which was covered by three mother titles.

The family failed to pay back the loan, prompting the GSIS to foreclose the property in the 1970s.

Then in the 1990s, a certain Eduardo Santiago filed a case against GSIS, claiming ownership of 78 lots of the Zulueta family.

The man supposedly represented a member of the Zulueta family who had died in 1996. And so the widow, Rosario Santiago, took over the case.

The case involved these 78 lots, as the "heir" claimed that the lots were not part of the mortgaged property to the GSIS.

It was claimed in the case that the GSIS also foreclosed on the 78 lots and that the "heir" wanted them back.

Anyway, the GSIS has been saying that, precisely, those 78 lots were excluded from the mortgage, meaning simply that the GSIS never had anything to do with them.

The GSIS has been claiming that, even before the Zulueta family got the loan from the pension fund, the original owners already sold most of these lots to third parties.

And so the GSIS even submitted to the court copies of land titles, showing that those 78 lots were now in the names of buyers who got the property directly from the Zulueta family—not the GSIS.

Still, the court ordered the GSIS to return those 78 lots to the "heir" of the original owner—which was, of course, impossible since the lots were already under the names of new owners.

In that case, according to the court, the GSIS must pay the "heir" the current market value of the land, which amounts to about P1 billion!

* * *

This is another sad story about a land dispute, this time featuring the Makati Rotary Club Foundation and a company called EPL Aircon.

The foundation has filed an "ejectment" case against the EPL Aircon, which has a factory on what the foundation claims to be its property.

According to the foundation, EPL Aircon has refused to pay the foundation for the use of the property, in accordance with a lease agreement requiring the company—which is EPL Aircon—to pay rent of about P8 million a month.

The foundation said that the company had not paid rent for seven months.

EPL Aircon got back with a case, claiming ownership of the land.

Actually, the property used to be the factory site of US-based aircon maker Koppel, which carried the "Koldaire" brand.

In 1975, Koppel donated the property to the Rotary Club of Makati, which created a foundation to manage it.

It is this foundation that dispenses the rental income, using it for some humanitarian projects of the Rotary Club of Makati.

In its case, EPL Aircon alleged that the foundation "violated" the terms of the lease between Koppel and the Rotary Club by raising the rental rates.

Here is my beef, ladies and gentlemen. Because of the cases, the foundation could no longer afford to finance more projects for the poor, including the Rotary Club's anti-TB campaign.

Oh, and did I mention that the foundation is also constructing a 150-home village—again for the poor—under Gawad Kalinga?

LIFESTYLE Food

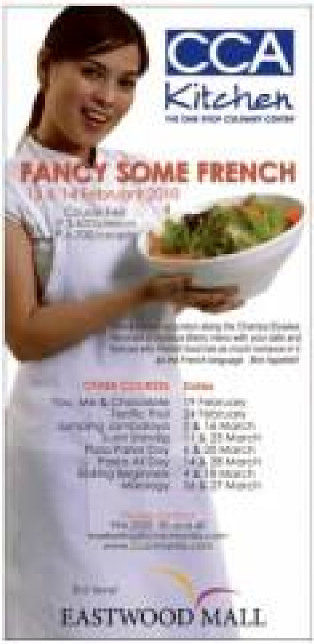


Why yuppies are flocking to this wine bar

From appetizers (potato chips with truffle dip) to main course (golden fritter of bacalao), it's distinct—and you can hear each other talk

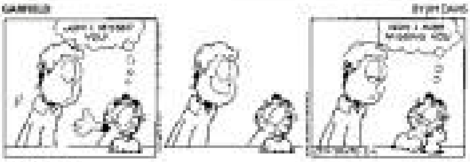
IF RESTAURANTS HAVE DIS- manities, ... would be of the strong, silent type, so silent that it doesn't even ban- ner its name outside. Only its lo- go, a mere letter M, indicates where it is, so you would have to be some kind of insider to







GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



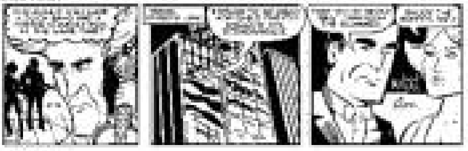
A-LIPIN — By Jess Abrera



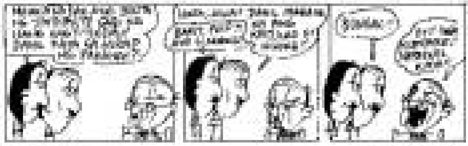
PUGAD BABOY — By Pol Medina Jr.



DICK TRACY



LOVESHOTS — By Elizabeth Chionglo



JAMES BOND



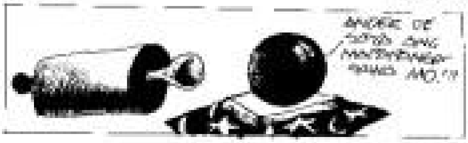
DIVINE COMEDY — By Steven Pabalinas



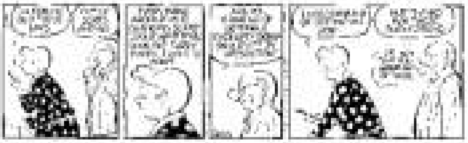
BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



TULDOK — By Mara Coll



BEN — By Daniel Shelton



KIKO MACHINE — By Manix Abrera



LOLO PEOLO — By Paul Reque



HOROSCOPE

By Francis Drake

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

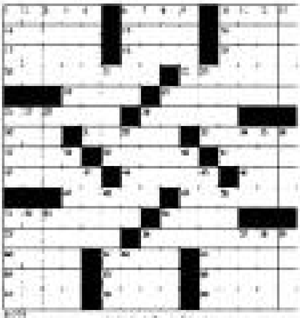
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

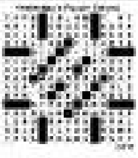
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Answer to previous puzzle

Conceptis Sudoku

	9					6		
8		5		7				
	7		2					3
		2			9			
	6						7	
			7			8		
2					5		3	
				6		9		2
		4					6	





Celebrate Valentine with champagne, roses and Hermès



THE PENINSULA Orange Valentine offers guests Hermès bath and body products.

FOR THIS VALENTINE SEASON, THE Peninsula Manila offers the Ultimate Romance package until Feb. 14. Couples can have complimentary buffet breakfast at the all-day dining restaurant Escolta and choose between a set dinner for two on the evening of their stay at either Old Manila or Spices or a buffet dinner at Escolta.

Those looking to add a special touch to their Valentine can go luxuriously "orange" instead of traditional red with a Peninsula Orange Valentine.

The Peninsula Orange Valentine was designed to introduce guests to the best of Manila and the luxurious Peninsula lifestyle. From the moment they open the door to their rooms, guests will be enveloped in Hermès orange. They can nibble on chocolate-dipped mangoes, apricots, oranges and tangerines while sipping on Peninsula Champagne before choosing from an array of Hermès bath and body products to use during their stay. The following morning, a short drive on a Mercedes-Benz limousine to the Hermès boutique in Greenbelt 5 for private viewing and shopping for designer fashions, fine leather items and fragrances is next on the pampering agenda, and while doing all these guests can have a Peninsula Continental breakfast served by a butler en suite at the Hermès boutique.

A swim in the outdoor pool and a supervised workout with a personal trainer at The Peninsula Spa await guests who avail of the Peninsula Orange Valentine experience.

Call 8872888 extension 6690/ 581-2280; e-mail [illegible]@peninsula.com.



DINING OUT

Bangus belly in teriyaki sauce



A spin-off of the [illegible] coffee shop, Caffeine offers new drinks and dishes like the Bangus Belly, pan-seared with teriyaki sauce. The hot plate comes with fried rice and sunny side up egg. Caffeine is at G/F, Eastwood Mall Promenade, tel. [illegible].

Grilled yellowtail

Inagiku at Makati Shangri-La offers [illegible] yellowtail [illegible] Feb. 17. Dishes include grilled yellowtail with salt, [illegible] yellowtail with ginger sauce, grilled yellowtail with [illegible], [illegible] yellowtail in salt block, grilled yellowtail [illegible] teriyaki sauce. Call [illegible].





Tuna 'salpicao'

Texas Roadhouse Grill introduces healthy dishes like Tuna Salpicao and [illegible] Grilled Chicken. Available at Texas Roadhouse Grill outlets in [illegible] High Street, Taguig (tel. [illegible]) and [illegible] and El Pueblo, Ortigas Center ([illegible]).





Baby-back ribs

Chili's offers Baby Back Ribs with [illegible] new sauces. They are Honey BBQ Ribs, Carolina Sweet Mustard Ribs, Honey Chipotle Ribs, Mandarin BBQ Ribs, Original Baby Back Ribs. All ribs are served with [illegible] fries and corn on the cob. Finish it off with Chocolate Chip Paradise Pie. Chili's is at Greenbelt 3, Makati ([illegible]), Greenhills, San Juan ([illegible]), and Tomas Morato, Quezon City ([illegible]).





ALJUR AND KRIS FOR FRUITAS

Filming between their movies and television shows can take its toll on Aljur Abrenica and Kris Bernal, the country's most promising rising star couple today.

But instead of taking in supplements or vitamins, the two prefer to drink up on fresh juices instead to perk up their energy level and replenish lost nutrients because of their hectic schedule.

"Aside from being more delicious and easier to drink, fresh fruit juices have no side effects," said Kris. "It's particularly helpful especially when I'm tired from taping and have not had any proper sleep."

Aljur agrees, saying that consuming fresh fruit juices helps in keeping his amazing physique in check. "Going to the gym is useless if you don't have the necessary nutrients inside your body," he said.

This is why the two, who is also a couple in real life, didn't think twice when asked to be the newest endorsers of Fruitas, Black Pearl, and Buko ni Fruitas. The brands operate under Lush, which also owns Juice Avenue, Mango Farm, and Cocktales.

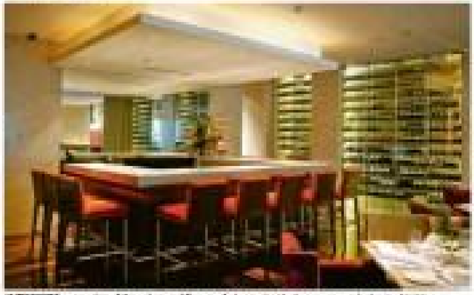
From today, fans of the young stars would be able to see their print ads and billboards around the metro and in the over 400 branches of the three brands they're endorsing.

Part of the endorsement deal is a franchise of one of the brands each for Aljur and Kris. While Aljur has yet to put up his branch, Kris is already earning from the Black Pearl she put up in Quezon City–a testament to how successful a franchise Lush is.

"I've always been a fan of Fruitas and Black Pearl," said Kris. Now, aside from eating lots of vegetables, drinking up on fresh fruit juices helps her maintaining a more curvaceous body.

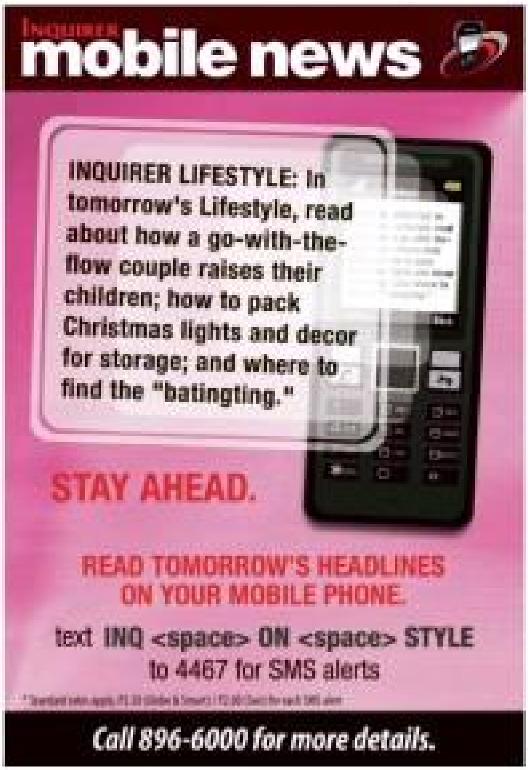

STRAWBERRY Pavlova


FILLET of Sole with French beans


INTERIORS suggestive of the colors and flavors of wine make the bar more conducive to drinking.

Why yuppies are flocking to this wine bar







'Sinukmani,' 'kilawing puso ng saging,' 'guinataang yapyap,' 'matse'–Sta. Rosa specialties



A NEW TWIST TO PREPARE CRISPY PATA

Unilever Foodsolutions, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Department of Tourism promote Filipino cuisine through "Sooo Pinoy"

Sooo Pinoy
celebrating Filipino flavors

The national search for the ultimate Pinoy dish

By Irene C. Perez

CRISPY PATA IS A TRADITIONAL Filipino dish made of deep-fried pork knuckles. The meat is made tender by boiling in water with lots of salt and other spices for a long time. Each family and restaurant has a recipe for crispy pata that calls for ingredients like pork, garlic, bay leaf, clear soda, baking soda, flour. A popular variation is boneless crispy pata.

Wellness Advocate Liz Bernardo has a healthier way of preparing your favorite crispy pata.

> ## Crispy Pata
>
> **Description:**
> Total Yield Servings: 10
> Portion Size: 100g
> Preparation Time: 1 hour
> Cooking Time: 45 mins
>
> **Ingredients:**
> Water (as needed)
> 1 kg whole Pork hock
> 20 g KNORR PORK BROTH
> Oil (as needed)
> 20 ml Water
> 2 Star anise
> 50 ml KNORR OYSTER SAUCE
> Cornstarch slurry (as needed)
> 5 g Sugar
>
> **Procedure:**
> Soften pork hock in water.
> Drain and let dry.
> Deep fry pork in oil.
> Bring water to a boil.
> Add in star anise.
> Add in Knorr Oyster Sauce.
> Thicken with cornstarch slurry.
> Season with sugar.
> Pour sauce over crispy pata.
>
> To vote your favorite Sooo Pinoy Dish, log on to www.inquirer.net

"Here's how to do it, boil the meat first, adobo-style, in a marinade of vinegar, soy sauce, pimiento, whole black pepper and bay leaf. Once the meat is soft, I broil the spiced crispy pata in a turbo broiler or bake it in an oven instead of frying it in lots of oil."

Bernardo says this method produces crispy pata with tender meat and crackling skin. It goes well with a dip of vinegar, soy sauce and finely chopped onions.

She serves her crispy pata with sinigang with no meat or adobong kangkong as side dishes. Her tip: Counter the richness of the crispy pata by serving it with no-meat kare-kare.

"You can do a tofu kare-kare with lightly fried tofu, or seafood kare-kare with fish with firm meat like lapu-lapu," she adds.

To save time, Bernardo says, prepare it ahead of time and store the boiled meat in the fridge. Then pop it in the turbo while entertaining guests.

Veggie Lover

Bernardo is a veggie and seafood lover, but she prepares crispy pata for her 17-year-old son Franco Florisalida.

"He's 6-foot tall and he loves my crispy pata. It gets wiped out every time I cook it at home, but if you have leftovers, you could shred the meat and cook it like paksiw and put it inside pan de sal buns, or you could make adobo out of it," Bernardo shares.

Crispy pata is a very Pinoy fiesta food, she says. Having it on the table is a sign of festivity and merriment.

"You eat it when there's special occasion. It signals a celebration when shared in a dining table or a restaurant. It's also very convenient because we cannot just order a lechon right away, so you have crispy pata instead in your feast. The crispier, the better."

Bernardo is Wellness editor of Cocoon Magazine and Inquirer Lifestyle's Home and Entertaining contributing editor. She is also marketing communications director of Wine Depot. A crispy pata meal, she suggests, would go well with a light red wine like Villa Maria New Zealand Pinot Noir.

Campaign

Crispy pata is one of the featured Filipino dish in the "Sooo Pinoy" campaign, a joint project of Unilever Foodsolutions, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Department of Tourism, that aims to promote Filipino cuisine.

Give your crispy pata a modern approach by pouring in Knorr Oyster Sauce. It gives your dish a rich, Oriental twist with a sweet and savory flavor.

You could also spike your marinade with Knorr Sango Ketchup Mang, a caramelized take on your usual barbecue sauce. Add a dash of Knorr Lime Powder, a calamansi alternative, on your crispy pata dip for a tangy taste.

Personal Favorite Pinoy Dish: 'Inihaw na isda at burong hipon'

Bernardo says although she's a veggie lover, she eats Australian meat around six times a year since she's in the food service industry. Her favorite Filipino comfort food is fried or grilled fish with burong hipon and mustard leaves.

"Some people don't like the fermented shrimps but I love it! I order the fish from Flory J's or Abe."

"Sooo Pinoy" on Inquirer features a true-blue Filipino dish every week and a celebrity's take on it, plus his or her favored local dish. Unilever Foodsolutions offers solutions on how to give your comfort food a modern approach with ingredients that are convenient and flavorful.


Liz Bernardo

Photo by Eddie Tanfer

‘Sinukmani,’ ‘kilawing puso ng saging,’ ‘guinataang yapyap,’ ‘matse’—Sta. Rosa specialties

COUNTRY COOKING



WHAT? EAT SINUKMANI WITH kilawing puso ng saging?

THE QUIET DINER

RESTOS AT A GLANCE

From mutton ‘adobo’ and ‘rellenong mais’ to crispy squids and ‘dinuguan’

Abe

Recipes

RATING INDEX: Poor, Good, Excellent



APO Jim Paredes Composes New FERN-C Jingle



ENTERTAINMENT





Carla-Geoff not playing second fiddle to Kris-Aljur



CARLA Abellana and Geoff Eigenmann

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S A WAR OF THE LOVE TEAMS.

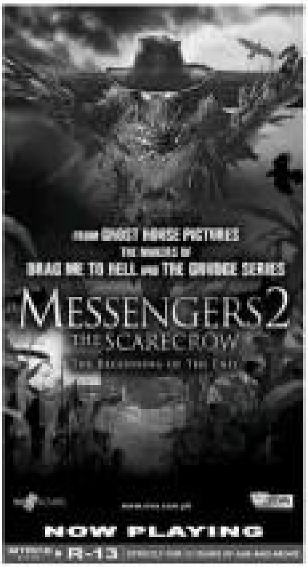
Show suspension unfair—ABS-CBN





The Kitchen Chronicles

Cooking is therapeutic, cathartic



BACK STORY



On my own

Cooking again

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 MESSENGER 2
4 LEGION
5 CASE 39
6 ...
7 PAANO NA KAYA
8 SPIG
9 AVATAR
10 THE TOOTH FAIRY

MANILA

1 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 MESSENGER 2
4 CASE 39
5 PAANO NA KAYA
6 THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT
7 LEGION

METRO EAST

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2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 MESSENGER 2
4 CASE 39
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6 LEGION
7 AVATAR
8 THE TOOTH FAIRY

NOVALICHES

1 LEGION
2 MESSENGER 2
3 CASE 39
4 PAANO NA KAYA

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 CASE 39
4 PAANO NA KAYA

STA. ROSA

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2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 THE BLIND SIDE
4 PAANO NA KAYA

LIPA

1 THE TOOTH FAIRY
2 CLAIMSIDE
3 PAANO NA KAYA
4 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL

DASMARIÑAS

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STARMALL

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2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATION
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5 LEGION
6 AVATAR

IMUS

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4 PAANO NA KAYA

ANGELES

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3 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATED
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TACLOBAN

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2 LEGION
3 PAANO NA KAYA

DUMAGUETE

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2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 PAANO NA KAYA

BACOLOD

1 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS
3 THE ROBOUND
4 DAYBREAKERS
5 PAANO NA KAYA
6 LEGION

ILOILO

1 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
2 DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS
3 IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS
4 THE TOOTH FAIRY
5 PAANO NA KAYA
6 LEGION

GENSAN

1 PREDATOR
2 PAANO NA KAYA
3 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
4 CIRQUE DU FREAK: VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT

ILOCOS NORTE (NOW OPEN)

1 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
2 PREDATOR
3 PAANO NA KAYA

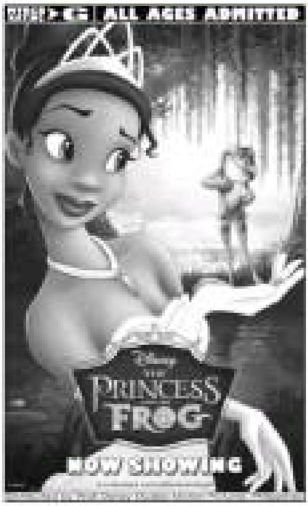
IMAX

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?

metro manila

luzon

visayas - mindanao



CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

Charice in Concert with Ryan Cayabyab

How did your family spend Valentine's Day when you were not famous yet?

Charice, did anybody send you flowers or a card when you were still in school?

Ryan, what was your most unique Valentine date?

What would be an ideal Valentine date?




CHARICE Pempengco

Who's your fantasy date?

Name other artists who could do a perfect Valentine show.


RYAN Cayabyab

What's the most romantic song for you and why?

Why should we watch your concert?









